

INTERVIEW SUMMARY AND REMARKS

On August 29, 2007, the Examiner initiated a telephonic interview with Applicants' attorney, Tait R. Swanson (Reg. No. 48,226) to discuss possible claim amendments to expedite allowance of the present application rather than furthering the appeal. The Examiner suggested reopening prosecution to enter amendments to place the application in condition for allowance. During the interview, the parties agreed that the following subject matter, among other things, would likely be allowable over the prior art: (1) rub detection associated with eccentricity – see FIGS. 10, 11, 13, and 14, (2) rub detection associated with thermal differentials – see FIGS. 2, 9, and 14, (3) rub detection associated with load changes – see FIGS. 7, 10, 11, and 14, (4) rub detection associated with abnormal condenser pressure – see FIGS. 8 and 14, (5) rub detection associated with abnormal steam temperature – see FIGS. 2 and 14, (6) rub detection associated with abnormal vibration at steady speed – see FIGS. 12 and 14, (7) rub detection associated with past vibration amplitude versus present vibration amplitude – see FIGS. 3-4, (8) rub detection associated with abnormal vibration variation – see FIGS. 2-6 and 9-14, and (9) rub detection associated with abnormal vibration during transient, e.g., startup or shutdown – see FIGS. 10-11. In addition, FIG. 14 and paragraphs [0027], [0028], [0035], and [0056] provide a general overview of the subject matter set forth in the amended claims. The parties agreed to discuss various amendments based on these items above.

On September 10 and 11, 2007, the parties held additional telephonic interviews to discuss the proposed amendments. During these subsequent interviews, the parties agreed to broaden some of the independent claims, and recite specific features in additional dependent claims.

On September 14, 2007, the Examiner initiated a further telephonic interview and indicated that the foregoing claims appear to be in condition for allowance. During this interview, the Examiner requested Applicants' attorney to file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to expedite allowance of the present application.

For these reasons, the Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 3, 4, 51, 52, 54, 56, 63, 65, and 69, cancel claims 71 and 75, and add new claims 76-104 to recite various features as agreed during the telephonic interviews. The Applicants stress that the present RCE and amendments are being filed with the expectation of a notice of allowance. Otherwise, the Applicants would be continuing with the appeal. In addition, in view of the restriction requirement mailed on April 11, 2005, the Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications.

The Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner wishes to resolve any issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 14, 2007

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